

**P.O. Box 548
Milan, OH 44846**

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This letter is to give my support to the agreement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. In my opinion, this antitrust case should never have happened. The government, quite frankly, should never have gotten involved; the Department of Justice was dragged into this action against Microsoft by both Microsoft's competitors, and the previous administration's definition of justice.

I wonder if anyone in the government really realizes the wonderful things Bill Gates, through Microsoft, has done for this country, and the world. Does anyone remember what it was like before Microsoft? What a mess our technology was. Nothing worked together. Bill Gates made possible a uniform software program package. You didn't have to go to ten different programs to accomplish one simple task. Microsoft's rivals, unable to compete, resorted to political means to bring Microsoft to heel. It is tragic our government so easily acquiesced.

In this agreement, Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers new license to make Windows as to promote non-Microsoft software programs; Microsoft has agreed to design future versions of Windows with a mechanism to make it easier to promote non-Microsoft software; Microsoft has agreed to help companies achieve a better degree of reliability with regard to their networking software. This is much more than any other company would do. I think Microsoft should be congratulated for trying to end this suit and get back to business.

Give your support to this agreement. Let's put this behind us and get back to business.

Sincerely,



Elaine Thornton